

California Department of Veterans Affairs



CAL-VET LOANS – VETERANS HOMES – VETERANS SERVICES – WOMEN VETERANS
VETERANS CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS – VETS LICENSE PLATES

NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIANS LOST IN “OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM” HONORED AT CAPITOL

Sacramento, Ca. – April 30, 2003 – Today the California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary, K. Maurice Johannessen, Governor Gray Davis, and more than 40 Commanders and Presidents from veterans organizations throughout the state paid tribute to California military members lost during “Operation Iraqi Freedom” at the Capitol.

Before a crowd of more than 200, Governor Davis, Secretary Johannessen, and Larry Lattman, a Korean War Veterans and Yountville Veterans Home resident, placed a wreath at the California Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Park honoring those lost in “Operation Iraqi Freedom.” A 21-gun salute and Taps followed placement of the wreath.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, K. Maurice Johannessen, commented, “Our hearts go out to the families of those who lost loved ones in Iraq. Their service to this great nation will never be forgotten as they join the ranks of thousands of other Californians and fellow Americans who have paid the ultimate price defending our freedom and the freedom of others around the world.”

Major General Daniel Gibson, Commander of the California Air National Guard, read the names of 40 soldiers lost in Iraq. The names included those who are California residents and those stationed at military bases here in the state.

The California Veterans Memorial, dedicated in 1998, honors more than five million Californians who served in America’s armed forces since 1850. It remains as a constant reminder of the sacrifice of these men and women in service to this state and the nation.

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**CALIFORNIANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN
“OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM”
(Including those assigned to California military facilities)
(As of April 30, 2003)**

<u>Rank/Name</u>	<u>Military Branch</u>	<u>KIA Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Capt Ryan Anthony Beaupre	Marines	March 20, 2003	Kuwait
Cpl Brian Matthew Kennedy	Marines	March 20, 2003	Kuwait
SSgt Kendall Damon Watersbey	Marines	March 20, 2003	Kuwait
2LT Therrel S. Childers	Marines	March 21, 2003	S. Iraq
LCpl Jose Gutierrez	Marines	March 21, 2003	S. Iraq
Lt Thomas Mullen Adams Waters	Navy	March 22, 2003	International
Sgt Michael E. Bitz	Marines	March 23, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Jose A. Garibay	Marines	March 23, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Jorge A. Gonzalez	Marines	March 23, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Randal Kent Rosacker	Marines	March 23, 2003	Iraq
HM3 Michael Vann Johnson	Navy	March 25, 2003	Iraq
Major Kevin G. Nave	Marines	March 26, 2003	Iraq
GySgt Joseph MenArmy	Marines	March 27, 2003	Iraq
LCpl Jesus A. Suarez Del Solar	Marines	March 27, 2003	Iraq
LCpl William W. White	Marines	March 27, 2003	Iraq
Sgt Michael V. Lalush	Marines	March 30, 2003	Iraq
LCpl Patrick T. O'Day	Marines	March 25, 2003	Iraq
LCpl Francisco A. Martinez Flores	Marines	March 25, 2003	Iraq
Capt Aaron J. Contreras	Marines	March 30, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Robert M. Rodriguez	Marines	March 27, 2003	Iraq
Sgt Brian D. McGinnis	Marines	March 30, 2003	Iraq
PFC Christian D. Gurtner	Marines	April 2, 2003	Iraq
Capt. Benjamin W. Sammis	Marines	April 4, 2003	Iraq
PFC Chad E. Bales	Marines	April 4, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Mark A. Evnin	Marines	April 4, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Erik H. Silva	Marines	April 1, 2003	Iraq
Pvt. Devon D. Jones	Army	April 4, 2003	Iraq
Capt Travis A. Ford	Marines	April 4, 2003	Iraq
Sgt Duane R. Rios	Marines	April 4, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Jesus Martin Antonio Medellin	Marines	April 7, 2003	Iraq
1st Sgt Edward Smith	Marines	April 4, 2003	Iraq
PFC Juan Guadalupe Garza, Jr.	Marines	April 8, 2003	Iraq
SFC John W. Marshall	Army	April 8, 2003	Iraq
GySgt Jeffrey E. Bohr, Jr.	Marines	April 10, 2003	Iraq
Jesus A. Gonzalez	Marines	April 12, 2003	Iraq
SSgt Riayan A. Tejada	Marines	April 11, 2003	Iraq
LCpl David Edward Owens, Jr.	Marines	April 12, 2003	Iraq
Cpl Jason David Mileo	Marines	April 14, 2003	Baghdad
Sgt. Tray David Jenkins	Army	April 24, 2003	Germany
1Lt Osbaldo Orozco	Army	April 25, 2003	Iraq